

### Playgrounds

The first playgrounds for colored children opened in the city of Louisville were in the side yards of our missions. Swings were erected, sand boxes were filled, games of ring toss, bean bags, and jumping ropes were provided, and many a child has had "the time of his life." All the children in the Preston Street Mission were asked individually if they had access to a swing. Not a single child had this privilege elsewhere. These grounds have not only been a source of pleasure, but have also been a school in which lessons of good behavior, good order, and fair play have been most effectually taught. Many a child has been appealed to for the first time in the playground, and from these grounds has been led through the Sunday-school and church to the foot of the Cross.

A Southern white man, the supervisor of one of the playgrounds, writes: "The interest and attendance at our playgrounds have grown far beyond my expectation. My arrival in the morning is met with glad greetings. I put it mildly when I say they do enjoy the play immensely. I also get almost as much pleasure from it as the children. . . . Not only is there enjoyment, but a wholesome moral influence is thrown around each child. We are much better acquainted with our own pupils, and with some we never saw. Certainly we have now the confidence and gratitude of the children of the mission and the entire community."

The greatest drawback to these playgrounds has been the small space available. Children came in such crowds that we were compelled to divide the sexes, and different days were used for boys and girls. The securing of a larger lot for a playground this summer has more than doubled the attendance of any previous year. The Sunday following the opening of this playground, twenty new pupils were enrolled in the Sunday-school.

### Colored Teacher-Training Class

At the earnest request of colored men and women representing several denominations, the superintendent of the missions consented to take a teacher-training class in a different section of the city from these missions. Men and women, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist, gathered, and Professor Hamill's "Legion of Honor Teacher-Training Lessons" was selected as a text-book. Several members of this class showed remarkable interest and fidelity, and each week have made long journeys entirely across the city in order to be present. Three

Sunday-school superintendents were members, and one of these organized a teacher-training class in his own Sunday-school.

### A Token of Appreciation

This class was undertaken with some hesitation, and only after urgent requests did the leader give his consent. He positively refused to receive any remuneration for his services, and was greatly surprised at the end of the year, when five diplomas were presented to members who had taken the state examination, to receive from the class a present of fifteen dollars in gold, as a token of appreciation of his work.

In other cities where it is impractical to organize a Sunday-school for colored children, a trained superintendent or teacher might wisely start such a class for the large body of Negro Sunday-school teachers who are now seeking to perfect themselves in their work.

### Special Days

It has been the custom of the Sunday-school for years to invite the friends of the work, both white and colored, to visit the missions.

The parents of the children have been asked on "Parents' Day" to see the Sunday-school in session, to hear the music and the recitations by the pupils, to inspect the buildings, and see where the industrial work is carried on.

The white friends who have contributed to the support of the work have been invited to come, on the "Anniversaries," to see how their money has been expended, and the fruits that are brought forth.

The pupils themselves are stimulated by these days, for special music is always used and the classes are called upon to recite the Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Psalms, the Golden Text for the quarter, the books of the Bible, and other lessons and special passages of Scripture.

These days have served to stimulate the interest of all. The pupils, the teachers, the parents, and the white supporters have all been encouraged.

The collection in the Sunday-school, very small in the early days, has gradually increased, and on these days some special object is designated. At Christmas time, baskets of apples and potatoes were contributed for the use of an orphans' home. A beautiful silver baptismal bowl, as a token of love, was sent across the waters to the heart of Africa, to a people on foreign shores who worship the same Saviour. The needs of our own